

# **Facilitation of School District IPM Implementation**

Report on a Community IPM Demonstration Project

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**Collaborators:** Livonia School District, Genesee Valley BOCES, CCE of Livingston County

**Introduction:** In late 1999, the Livonia Central School District in Livingston County was identified as a partner for the development of a comprehensive school IPM program. Genesee Valley BOCES personnel recommended Livonia because of the probable good cooperation of the school administration and the district's desire to reduce pesticide use. Initial meetings identified the needs and objectives of the partnership.

**Objectives:**

- A. Facilitate adoption of a district pest management policy.
- B. IPM training of district and pest control personnel.
- C. Assist general implementation of IPM.
- D. Conduct a focus project on mice.
- E. Conduct a focus project on lice.
- F. Conduct a focus project on ants.
- G. Hold an educational meeting on district property.

## **Results:**

**Pest Management Policy Adoption:** I provided school administration with two written model policies. In November, I was informed that the school board will be considering a policy. I provided feedback to the proposed policy. To my knowledge, board discussion of the policy is still pending.

**IPM Training:** The plan was to conduct an inservice for Livonia buildings and grounds personnel, cafeteria staff, and pest control contractors. One complication is that the district has been without a structural pest control contractor for much of the year. I did propose to the school administration that we hold an inservice for their staff in November or December, but that did not materialize.

**General IPM Implementation:** The focus was on the primary school. In January, together with personnel from the school district, CCE of Livingston County, and Orkin Pest Control, I conducted an inspection of the general exterior of the primary school plus the kitchen, cafeteria, and teachers lounge. The building exterior was in generally good structural condition and the kitchen was very clean. I provided the school superintendent of buildings and grounds with a written report containing specific recommendations. Many of the recommendations (especially exterior exclusion) have been implemented.

Monthly, I have been inspecting the exterior of the primary school looking for signs of pest problems. When found, these have been reported in writing to the school administration.

The lack of a structural pest control contractor has impeded implementation of IPM. The school district has recently signed a contract with a company that sounds promising. I will be meeting with their manager this coming January.

At the request of the school district, I provided some input into stinging insect management at the middle school and the high school.

**Mice:** In late August, I set 9 pairs of mouse snap traps around the foundation of the primary school to monitor mouse activity. These traps were checked weekly through early November and less frequently since then. A total of four mice (3 *Peromyscus* and 1 *Mus*) were caught. Exclusion recommendations were made at one location where two of the mice were caught.

In December, I started replacing the snap traps with up to 18 tamper-resistant bait stations containing a non-toxic monitoring bait. This method has been around for a few years but has not been extensively adopted by the pest control industry. I wish to evaluate the method's efficacy as a monitoring tool.

**Lice:** I have met with the primary school nurse and received a copy of her current policy and recommendations concerning lice. I have provided some initial input and will be pursuing this further.

**Ants:** The objective was to work closely with the school's pest control contractor on ant IPM. Again, the lack of a contractor for several months prevented this.

**Educational Meeting:** On October 26, a half day workshop was held in the school district. More than 30 school and BOCES personnel attended. The demonstration was described along with the stinging insect project (Livonia was a cooperator with that also). The workshop included a two-hour tour. Written evaluations were positive with appreciation especially being expressed for the information on stinging insects.

**Impact:** To date, the greatest impact has probably been the educational meeting which served as a forum for school pest managers to interact on implementing IPM.

**Future Plans:** A) Work with the school administration and school board on the adoption of a district pest management policy.

B) Work with the district's new pest control contractor on implementing IPM with a focus on ants.

C) Work with the school nurse on updating the school's lice policy and educational literature.

D) Continue the mouse focus project especially the evaluation of the non-toxic bait monitoring stations.

E) Hold another educational meeting next fall to highlight the demonstration project to others outside the Livonia School District.